

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 15391 221952Z

67

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 088948

O 222001Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3784

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15391

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, IT, US

SUBJECT: KAGNEW FOUR

REF: A) STATE 249550 B) STATE 250696

1. INSTRUCTIONS OF REFTELS WERE CARRIED OUT BY EMBOFF IN CONTACTS WITH MFA OCTOBER 21 AND 22.

2. ON OCTOBER 22 CALL, MFA HAD RECEIVED REPORT FROM ITS AMBASSADOR KHARTOUM, PARALLELING KHARTOUM'S 2463, AND ASKING FOR INSTRUCTIONS. RESPONSIBLE OFFICER (RACHELE) SAID MFA WAS "SURPRISED" TO LEARN THAT ENVELOPE WHICH HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO KHARTOUM VIA GOI POUCH AT OUR REQUEST HAD NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY EMBASSY KHARTOUM, AND ASKED FOR BACKGROUND.

3. ON HEARING JUSTIFICATION, AND ON LEARNING (PER PARA. 1, REF. B) THAT WE NOW HOPE ITALIAN EMBASSY KHARTOUM, (WHILTE HAND-ING ENVELOPE TO GHEBRESELLASSIS), WILL COMMENT ONLY THAT "USG HAS INDICATED TO GOI NO MORE THAT THAT IT IS PREPARED TO HAVE A USG REP MEET WITH ELF", RACHELE EXPRESSED SOME RELIEF. MFA FELT THAT TELLING GHEBRESELLASSIE THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF EMBASSY KHARTOUM ONLY PREPARED TO MEET WITH HIM TO DISCUSS MODALITIES OF THE PROMPT AND UNCONDITINAL RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES WOULD INEVITABLY INJECT GOI INTO SUBSTANCE OF THE PRO-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 15391 221952Z

BLEM AND COMPROMISE ITS EFFICACY IN THE FUTURE AS A CHANNEL OF

COMMUNICATION.

4. HOWEVER, RACHELE WENT FURTHER TO SAY THAT MFA WOULD ALSO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH HAVING ITS EMBASSY HAND OVER THE ENVELOPE, CONCURRENTLY CONVEYING SIMPLE WORD OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO MEET. HE EXPLAINED THAT GOI HAD DEALT WITH SUCH ERITREANS AS IT FELT HAD INFLUENCE ON THE KAGNEW FOUR PROBLEM, THE ENVELOPE WAS THE RESPONSE (OTHER THAN STOPPING EXECUTIONS) THEY HAD RECEIVED, THAT THEY HAD ACCEPTED ENVELOPE FOR DELIVERY TO AND THROUGH USG WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO JUDGE THE MERITS OR DEMERITS OF THIS UN-USUAL PROCEDURE, AND THAT THEY FELT AN OBLIGATION TO THE ERITREANS TO CARRY OUT THEIR PART OF THE BARGAIN. NEVERTHELESS THE ENVELOPE REMAINS IN ITALIANS HANDS.

5. MFA FELT THAT MERE FACT OF RETURNING ENVELOPE TO ELF/PLF AT US REQUEST WOULD "NOT ACCORD WITH" MFA'S UNDERTAKING, BUT WOULD ALSO HAVE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO ELF/PLF, PUT GOI IN MEDIATOR ROLE AND, SPEAKING QUITE PERSONALLY, RACHELE SPECULATED COULD TRIGGER NEW ELF/PLF THINKING ON THE PROBLEM WITH POSSIBLE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE HOSTAGES. HE OPINED BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE TO HAND ENVELOPE TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM AND PASS WORK AT OUR REQUEST IN ITALIAN CHANNELS THAT USG HAS ENVELOPE THERE AND IS PREPARED TO TALK. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, TO TAKE THE QUESTION TO HIS SUPERIORS AND BE IN CONTACT WITH
US OCTOBER 23.VOLPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIBERATION FRONTS, PRISONERS RELEASE, NEGOTIATIONS, HOSTAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME15391
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750367-0192
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751028/aaaaazbn.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 249550, 75 STATE 250696
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KAGNEW FOUR
TAGS: PFOR, ET, IT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006